

The Power of God's Word (Part 3) - Acts 17:7-15 – September 7th, 2008

- Here in chapter 17, the Apostle Paul is on his second missionary journey and is now making his way to and through Thessalonica.
- What's so striking about Paul's missionary journey's, is that they are perilous at best, yet, God is moving in a most powerful way.
- Packaged with the problems, the Gospel is preached, the Word is spread, people are being saved, and churches are being planted.

- When they arrive in the synagogue in Thessalonica, Paul reasons with them from the scriptures, and that's when the problems begin.
- It seems that Paul's missionary journey can sort of rise from the pages and show us how God's Word, like God's grace, is sufficient.
- I wonder if one of the reasons Acts chapter 17 is in our Bibles, is to show us how powerful God's Word can be in our lives.

- This is part 3 of a study titled; "The Power of God's Word." My hope and my prayer has been that we would rediscover God's Word.
- I suggest to you that we have set before us a remarkable opportunity to fall in love with the scriptures like never before.
- As we'll see today, the Spirit of God, will minister the Word of God, to the People of God because of the power of God and His Word.

- 1. God's Word is reasonable (Verses 1-2)** - Paul reasons with them from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.
- 2. God's Word is persuasive (Verses 3-4)** - Some Jews, a large number of Greeks, and prominent women are persuaded.
- 3. God's Word may start a riot (Verse 5)** - Out of jealousy, the Jews round up bad characters, form a mob and start a riot.
- 4. God's Word can turn things upside down (Verse 6)** - They're referred to as ones who; "have turned the world upside down."

5. God's Word may defy mans laws (Verses 7-9)

7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house. **They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.** 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

v7 They go on to say that Jason is guilty by association by welcoming them and they're all defying Caesar's laws regarding another king.

v8 We're then told that when the crowd and the city officials heard about this defying of their law, they were thrown into turmoil.

v9 They then make Jason and the others who were arrested by them, post bond to assure them that this wouldn't happen again.

v10 As soon as it was night the brethren sent Paul and Silas away to Berea, where upon arriving they go right to the Jewish synagogue.

6. God's Word needs to be examined (Verses 10-12)

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, **for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.** 12 Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

v10 As soon as it was night the brethren sent Paul and Silas away to Berea, where upon arriving they go right to the Jewish synagogue.

Question: Why did Paul, at night, run out of Thessalonica so fast, was he afraid?

Answer: It was prudence not paranoia. His work was done and he didn't want to cause any problems for the church that was just planted.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia-your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. NIV

v11 This is one of the most important verses in the Word. The Bereans, more noble than the Thessalonians, search the scriptures daily!

v12 We're told that many of the Jews and a number of prominent Greek women along with many Greek men believed and were saved.

- Some commentators believe that these Bereans weren't believers yet, which is why they searched the Scriptures daily.

7. God's Word needs to be preached (Verses 13-15)

13 When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that **Paul was preaching the word of God** at Berea, they went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. 14 The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. 15 The men who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

v13 When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that "Paul was preaching the Word of God," they actually go to Berea to agitate the crowds.

v14 The brethren immediately respond by sending Paul to the coast to get him out of there, but Silas and Timothy stay in Berea.

v15 Paul ends up in Athens and instructs his escorts to go back and tell Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

Romans 10:13-15 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"